

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-8 (cancelled).

Claim 21. (new) A method of cross-connecting the individual optical fibers of a plurality of fiber optic ribbons, comprising the steps of:

providing a first substrate having an adhesive thereon;

routing a plurality of individual optical fibers onto the substrate to form at least portions of a plurality of fiber optic input ribbons, reorganizing the fibers on the substrate and forming at least portions of a plurality of fiber optic output ribbons, the fibers extending beyond input and output sides of the substrate to define input tails and output tails of the input ribbons and output ribbons, respectively;

providing a second substrate having an adhesive thereon;

routing a plurality of individual optical fibers onto the second substrate to form at least portions of a plurality of fiber optic input ribbons, reorganizing the fibers on the second substrate and forming at least portions of a plurality of fiber optic output ribbons, the fibers extending beyond input and output sides of the substrate to define input tails and output tails of the input ribbons and output ribbons, respectively;

coating the gathered input and output tails on the ribbonizing apparatus to hold the tails in ribbon form; and

stripping the coated tails from the ribbonizing apparatus.

Claim 22. (new) The method of claim 21 wherein said individual optical fibers are routed onto the substrates by a mechanical routing apparatus having a routing head.

Claim 23. (new): The method of claim 21, including the step of applying a coating over the fibers routed onto the first substrate.

Claim 24. (new): The method of claim 21, including the step of applying a coating over the fibers routed onto the second substrate.

Claim 25. (new) A method of cross-connecting the individual optical fibers of a plurality of fiber optic ribbons, comprising the steps of:

providing a first substrate having an adhesive thereon;

routing a plurality of individual optical fibers onto the substrate by a mechanical routing apparatus having a routing head to form at least portions of a plurality of first fiber optic ribbons;

reorganizing the fibers on the substrate and forming at least portions of a plurality of second fiber optic ribbons, the fibers extending beyond the substrate to define first tails and second tails of the first ribbons and second ribbons, respectively;

applying a coating over the fibers routed onto the first substrate;

providing a second substrate having an adhesive thereon;

routing a plurality of individual optical fibers onto the second substrate by a mechanical routing apparatus having a routing head to form at least portions of a plurality of first fiber optic ribbons, reorganizing the fibers on the second substrate and forming at least portions of a plurality of second fiber optic ribbons, the fibers extending beyond the second substrate to define first tails and second tails of the first ribbons and second ribbons, respectively;

applying a coating over the fibers routed onto the second substrate; and

placing the second substrate and fibers routed thereon on top of the first substrate and the fibers routed thereon, such that fibers of the two substrates combine form complete first and second ribbons along with their respective first and second tails.

Claim 26 (new) The method of claim 25, including the step of using a ribbonizing apparatus to gather the first and second tails into ribbon form.

Claim 27 (new) The method of claim 26, including the step of coating the gathered first and second tails on the ribbonizing apparatus to hold the tails in ribbon form.

Claim 28 (new) The method of claim 27, including the step of stripping the coated tails from the ribbonizing apparatus.

Claim 29 (new) The method of claim 21, including the step of placing the second substrate and the fibers routed thereon on top of the first substrate and the fibers routed

thereon, such that the fibers of the two substrates combine to form complete input and output ribbons along with their respective input and output tails.

Claim 30 (new) The method of claim 21, including the step of using a ribbonizing apparatus to gather the input and output tails into ribbon form.